

2006 August Calendar Info for Hopkinton State Park

**Wednesday
August 2nd**

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS HIKE

8:00-10:30 am, Meet at the contact station

Enjoy a morning hike, searching for birds who call Hopkinton State Park their home. Top off the morning with a light camp style breakfast. **Pre-registration required** by Monday July 31st. All ages welcome.

**Thursday
August 3rd**

WOMEN IN THE OUTDOORS!

1:00-3:00 pm, Meet at the boathouse

Come join us in a fun, supportive environment geared towards assisting you in feeling empowered in the outdoors. The August 3rd program includes activities such as tent and camp set-up, shelter building, hiking and many others. Women ages 14 and up, but all ages welcome.

**Friday
August 4th**

LET'S TALK TURTLE

1:00-2:00 pm, Meet at the Upper Beach bathhouse

What animal has scales, long claws, a hard or soft shell, and is cold blooded? If you guessed a turtle, you're right! Learn about the habitat, range, and life cycle of the ten species of pond and mud turtles native to Massachusetts on Friday, August 4th. Great for ages 5-12, but all ages are welcome.

**Friday
August 4th**

SPECIAL EVENT: SUMMER SKY STAR PARTY!

9:00-11:00 pm, Meet at the boat ramps

On August 4th Hopkinton State Park welcomes the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics as we explore the summer skies through both large and small amateur telescopes. Join us as we go to the moon to view some of the Apollo landing sites. Other targets include the moons of Jupiter and the hidden mysteries of the Summer Triangle. Classes on how to learn some of the brighter summer constellations will also be held. Great for all ages.

**Tuesday
August 8th**

JUNIOR RANGERS

1:00-3:00 pm, Meet at the boathouse

Become a Massachusetts State Forest and Park Junior Ranger, the youngest group of forest protectors in the state! This program includes 4 weeks of outdoor adventure, at the end of which Junior Rangers will receive his/her own certificate and badge. Junior Rangers commit to every Tuesday from 1-3:00 pm, starting on August 8th. Outdoor exploration includes orienteering, pond exploration, animal tracking, and much more. Pre-registration encouraged, but not required. For kids ages 6-10.

**Thursday
August 10th**

WHAT DOES AN OWL EAT?

1:00-2:00 pm, Meet at the end of Dogwood near the bridge to the dam

Owls swallow their prey whole, including fur and bones. However, they are not able to digest these materials so they regurgitate them. Each pellet often contains a skeleton of the animal the owl ate, usually mice, gophers and voles. Come join us on August 10th as we dissect these pellets and try to reconstruct the skeletons to uncover what was for dinner. Great for kids ages 8-12, but all ages welcome

**Friday
August 11th**

SPECIAL EVENT: BLUE HILLS TRAILSIDE MUSEUM BIRDS OF PREY

1:00-2:00 pm, Meet at the upper beach picnic area

What is that flying in the sky? Is it a plane? Is it a flying saucer? No, silly! It is a raptor. Join us on August 11th as we welcome the Blue Hills Trailside Museum and their special birds of prey such as owls and hawks. Learn why some birds are called raptors, and what it means to be a bird of prey. All ages welcome.

**Tuesday
August 15th**

JUNIOR RANGERS

1:00-3:00 pm, Meet at the end of Dogwood near the bridge to the dam

Become a Massachusetts State Forest and Park Junior Ranger, the youngest group of forest protectors in the state! This program includes 4 weeks of outdoor adventure, at the end of which Junior Rangers will receive his/her own certificate and badge. Junior Rangers meet on Tuesdays from 1-3:00 pm. Outdoor exploration includes orienteering, pond exploration, animal tracking, and much more. Pre-registration encouraged, but not required. For kids ages 6-10.

**Wednesday
August 16th**

FUNGUS AMONG US

9:30-11:00 am, Meet at the contact station

Join us as we explore the forest floor and walls searching for wild mushrooms on August 16th. This program is for the beginning mushroom enthusiast and expert alike. Hope for rain the day before and we might find some elusive jelly fungi! All ages welcome.

**Monday
August 21st**

POND ADVENTURE

2:00-3:00 pm, Meet at the main beach bathhouse

What is a macro-invertebrate? Why is it important to you? On Monday August 21st, this program will introduce you to the sights and sounds of the amazing world of frogs, toads, salamanders, and those funny things which are called invertebrates. This fun hour will be filled with games, pond exploration and a story about silly looking creatures living just below the pond's surface. Great for ages 5 and up, but all ages welcome.

**Tuesday
August 22nd**

JUNIOR RANGERS

1:00-3:00 pm, Meet at the main beach bathhouse

Become a Massachusetts State Forest and Park Junior Ranger, the youngest group of forest protectors in the state! This program includes 4 weeks of outdoor adventure, at the end of which Junior Rangers will receive his/her own certificate and badge. Junior Rangers meet on Tuesdays from 1-3:00 pm. Outdoor exploration includes orienteering, pond exploration, animal tracking, and much more. Pre-registration encouraged, but not required. For kids ages 6-10.

**Friday
August 25th**

LET'S GET LOST!

10:00-11:30 am, Meet at the Main Beach bathhouse

So...you have a map, and you have a compass, but do you know how to use them if you needed to? Orienteering is often called the "thinking sport" because it involves map reading and decision-making in addition to a great workout! Come join us on August 25th and become experts at reading a map and using a compass to find your way! Ages 10 and up

**Friday
August 25th**

NATURE GAMES

3:00-4:00 pm, Meet at the upper beach picnic area

Want to have some fun? Want to learn about the outdoors? Spend an hour making friends and learning about how things we do every day affect the natural world around us. Join us as we wrap our summer fun on August 25th with this silly, educational and active time. Great for ages 8-12, but all ages welcome.

**Tuesday
August 29th**

JUNIOR RANGERS

1:00-3:00 pm, Meet at the boathouse

Become a Massachusetts State Forest and Park Junior Ranger, the youngest group of forest protectors in the state! This program includes 4 weeks of outdoor adventure, at the end of which Junior Rangers will receive his/her own certificate and badge. Junior Rangers meet on Tuesdays from 1-3:00 pm. Outdoor exploration includes orienteering, pond exploration, animal tracking, and much more. Pre-registration encouraged, but not required. For kids ages 6-10.

**Wednesday
August 30th**

HIKING AND EXPLORING YOUR STATE PARKS!

10:30-12:00 PM, Meet at Whitehall State Park parking lot

Explore the trails of Hopkinton, Ashland and Whitehall State Parks with your friends and neighbors! Join us for a leisurely hike and learn more about your state parks' history and natural resources. Hikes of various lengths will be available throughout the summer. Themed hikes are a highlight of this program: tracking, bird-watching, forest ecology and historical interpretation are just a few of those being offered. Join us on Wednesday June 27th, when we will enjoy Whitehall State Park. All ages welcome.

**Thursday
August 31st**

SCAVENGER HUNT

3:00-4:00 PM, Meet at the main beach area

How many things do you think that you can find in an hour at Hopkinton State Park? Find something blue. What about some scat? How about a bird feather? Join us on August 31st for our last program of the season as we go on a quest for interesting things in our park. Prizes to be given out! Great for ages 5-12, but all ages welcome.